

## Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of determining resource placement, comprising:

determining ~~a set of business objectives~~ plurality of assessment criteria for assessing each of a plurality of candidate locations for ~~resource placement~~ placing resources for a product;

~~— developing one or more objective measurements for each business objective;~~

~~— performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives, thereby~~

~~determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;~~

~~— developing cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;~~

creating a product profile for the product, the product profile comprising an importance value assigned to each of a first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of a second

plurality of the assessment criteria, the first plurality pertaining to local skills for the product and the second plurality pertaining to a marketplace of the product;

creating a geography profile for each of the candidate locations, each geography profile comprising a score assigned to each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, each score in each of the geography profiles assigned to indicate how well the candidate location meets the assessment criterion to which the score is assigned;

using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically compute a skills gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

20 computing a plurality of skills gap values for the candidate location by subtracting,  
21 for each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria, the score assigned to the assessment  
22 criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location from the importance value assigned to  
23 the assessment criterion in the product profile; and

24 summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed skills gap  
25 values to yield the skills gap score for the candidate location;

26 using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to programmatically  
27 compute an opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

28 computing a plurality of opportunity gap values for the candidate location by  
29 subtracting, for each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, the importance value  
30 assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile from the score assigned to the  
31 assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location; and

32 summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed opportunity  
33 gap values to yield the opportunity gap score for the candidate location; and

34 ~~using computer-readable program code executed by a computer to programmatically~~  
35 ~~compute a value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations using the business~~  
36 ~~objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors,~~  
37 ~~further comprising:~~

38 ~~determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;~~

39 ~~determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific~~  
40 ~~score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the~~  
41 ~~second plurality of business objectives;~~

42 ~~using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance values~~  
43 ~~to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and~~  
44 ~~for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the~~  
45 ~~developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location;~~  
46 using computer-readable program code executed by the computer to programmatically  
47 select a particular location from among the candidate locations for placing the resources, based on  
48 the programmatically-computed ~~value for placing the resources in~~ skills gap score for each of the  
49 candidate locations and the programmatically-computed opportunity gap score for each of the  
50 candidate locations[[:]], and  
51 ~~assigning the determined resources to the programmatically-selected particular location.~~

Claim 19 (canceled)

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the ~~assigned~~  
2 resources are information technology personnel.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the ~~assigned~~  
2 resources comprise monetary investments in the particular location.

Claims 22 - 27 (canceled)

1 Claim 28 (currently amended): A system for assigning resources, comprising:

a computer comprising a processor and a memory;

a plurality of assessment criteria, stored in the memory, set of business objectives for  
assessing each of a plurality of candidate locations for ~~resource placement~~ placing resources for a  
product;

~~one or more objective measurements for each business objective;~~

~~results of value chain analyses performed related to the set of business objectives, the~~  
~~results usable for determining what resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain;~~

~~cost factors for costs of placing the determined resources in the candidate locations;~~

a product profile for the product, the product profile stored in the memory and comprising  
an importance value assigned to each of a first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of a  
second plurality of the assessment criteria, the first plurality pertaining to local skills for the  
product and the second plurality pertaining to a marketplace of the product;

a geography profile for each of the candidate locations, each geography profile stored in  
the memory and comprising a score assigned to each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria  
and to each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, each score in each of the geography  
profiles assigned to indicate how well the candidate location meets the assessment criterion to  
which the score is assigned; and

instructions which are executable on the computer, using the processor, to implement  
functions comprising:

programmatically computing a skills gap score for each of the candidate locations,  
further comprising:

computing a plurality of skills gap values for the candidate location by

subtracting, for each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria, the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location from the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed skills gap values to yield the skills gap score for the candidate location;

programmatically computing an opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations, further comprising:

computing a plurality of opportunity gap values for the candidate location by subtracting, for each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, the importance value assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile from the score assigned to the assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location; and

summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed opportunity gap values to yield the opportunity gap score for the candidate location; and

~~programmatically computing a value for placing the resources in each of the candidate locations using the business objectives, according to the developed objective measurements, and the developed cost factors, further comprising:~~

~~determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;~~

~~determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the second plurality of business objectives;~~

~~using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance~~

46 ~~values to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and~~  
47 ~~\_\_\_\_\_ for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the~~  
48 ~~developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location; and~~  
49 ~~using the programmatically-computed value to programmatically selecting select-a~~  
50 ~~particular location from among the candidate locations for placing the resources, based on the~~  
51 ~~programmatically-computed skills gap score for each of the candidate locations and the~~  
52 ~~programmatically-computed opportunity gap score for value for placing the resources in each of~~  
53 ~~the candidate locations, thereby enabling assignment of the determined resources for placement in~~  
54 ~~the programmatically-selected particular location.~~

Claims 29 - 32 (canceled)

1 Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein programmatically  
2 selecting a particular location further comprises selecting the candidate location for which a cost  
3 of placing the resources in the candidate location is lowest.

Claim 34 (canceled)

1 Claim 35 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 28, wherein programmatically  
2 selecting a particular location further comprises selecting the candidate location for which a cost  
3 of placing the resources in the candidate location is lowest.

1 Claim 36 (currently amended): A computer program product for determining resource placement,  
2 the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable storage media and  
3 comprising computer-usable program code for:

4 retrieving a plurality of assessment criteria ~~programmatically computing a value for placing~~  
5 ~~resources in each of a plurality of candidate locations using a set of business objectives for~~  
6 ~~assessing each of [[the]] a plurality of candidate locations for resource placement, according to~~  
7 ~~one or more objective measurements developed for each business objective, and cost factors~~  
8 ~~developed for costs of placing the resources in the candidate locations, the resources determined~~  
9 ~~by performing value chain analyses related to the set of business objectives to identify what~~  
10 ~~resources will potentially improve the analyzed value chain, further comprising: placing resources~~  
11 for a product;

12 creating a product profile for the product, the product profile comprising an importance  
13 value assigned to each of a first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of a second  
14 plurality of the assessment criteria, the first plurality pertaining to local skills for the product and  
15 the second plurality pertaining to a marketplace of the product;

16 creating a geography profile for each of the candidate locations, each geography profile  
17 comprising a score assigned to each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria and to each of  
18 the second plurality of the assessment criteria, each score in each of the geography profiles  
19 assigned to indicate how well the candidate location meets the assessment criterion to which the  
20 score is assigned;

21 programmatically computing a skills gap score for each of the candidate locations, further  
22 comprising:

23 computing a plurality of skills gap values for the candidate location by subtracting,  
24 for each of the first plurality of the assessment criteria, the score assigned to the assessment  
25 criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location from the importance value assigned to  
26 the assessment criterion in the product profile; and

27 summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed skills gap  
28 values to yield the skills gap score for the candidate location;

29 programmatically computing an opportunity gap score for each of the candidate locations,  
30 further comprising:

31 computing a plurality of opportunity gap values for the candidate location by  
32 subtracting, for each of the second plurality of the assessment criteria, the importance value  
33 assigned to the assessment criterion in the product profile from the score assigned to the  
34 assessment criterion in the geography profile for the candidate location; and

35 summing, for each of the candidate locations, each of the computed opportunity  
36 gap values to yield the opportunity gap score for the candidate location; and

37 ~~—————determining an importance value for a first plurality of the business objectives;~~

38 ~~—————determining, for a second plurality of the business objectives, a location-specific~~  
39 ~~score for each of the candidate locations that reflects how well the candidate location meets the~~  
40 ~~second plurality of business objectives;~~

41 ~~—————using the location-specific scores and corresponding ones of the importance values~~  
42 ~~to compute a plurality of gap values for each of the candidate locations; and~~

43 ~~—————for each of the candidate locations, using the computed gap values and the~~  
44 ~~developed cost factors to yield the value for placing the resources in the candidate location; and~~



45                   programmatically selecting a particular location from among the candidate locations for  
46                   placing the resources, based on the programmatically-computed skills gap score for each of the  
47                   candidate locations and the programmatically-computed opportunity gap score for value for  
48                   ~~placing the resources in each of the candidate locations; for assigning the determined resources.~~

Claim 37 (canceled)

1                   Claim 38 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein  
2                   programmatically selecting a particular location further comprises selecting the candidate location  
3                   for which a cost of placing the resources in the candidate location is lowest.

1                   Claim 39 (new): The method according to Claim 18, further comprising placing the resources in  
2                   the programmatically-selected particular location.